

Sarah McClendon's Washington Report
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In This Issue: Ross Perot's New Theme on Race;
 Bush Appointees Oversee Clients
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One of my readers in Florida writes that she would like to have more information on Ross Perot before making up her mind about whom to vote for president.

A new theme of Perot, voiced at the opening of his headquarters in Washington, D.C., is coalescing the huge melting pot of races and nationalities and genders that is the U.S. and how we are all "stuck" here together and we ought to be getting along, not being divisive. "If any one tries to divide us, do not listen to that person," said Perot to an audience largely of black politicians who had come together to produce this opening ceremony, led by a woman minister. Many of the blacks showed real emotion when he said this. They gave him tumultuous applause. "None of you are going back to Scotland or any other nation you came from", he said to the blacks and whites present. "So let's get on with it."

Perot had said in the past, "I don't care where you came from. I don't care what color you are or what race or religion you are, what sex you are. I'm interested in what you can do and what you've done lately. We judge people on merit and strictly on merit."

EDITORIAL COMMENT: THOUGHTS LIKE THESE FROM A LEADER ARE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN SENDING BILLIONS TO LOS ANGELES AND POSITIONING 1000 GOVERNMENT AGENTS FROM A HALF DOZEN AGENCIES FOR POLICE WORK. IF THIS ATTITUDE WERE APPLIED, IT COULD CURE THE SICKNESS IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL.

BUSH has in several instances named appointees to jobs where they would become the official overseers of the illegal or questionable behavior of their former clients.

Joseph Whitley, a former employe of a firm buying weapons from the U.S. for Iraq. through an Atlanta bank, was named U.S. attorney at Atlanta where the grand jury was supposed to be investigating this case. He had worked for Matrix-Churchill, a British company working for Iraq through a branch of the bank of Italy in Atlanta, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

Roberto Martinez, Miami attorney who had been representing the biggest arms seller to foreign nations was named U.S.

attorney at Miami.

Samuel K. Skinner received two appointments from the Bush administration. He had been U.S. attorney in northern Illinois. He was the protege of the former Governor of Illinois, "Big Jim" Thompson. Referred to him was the case of G.D. Searle, owner-producer of NutraSweet which the Food and Drug Administration wanted to keep off the market as injurious to health. Skinner took a particular interest in this case and even went to Washington once to attend a conference which he had arranged with attorneys of the government and Searle. Skinner set up several preliminary conferences for explaining Searles' side to the government while the Food and Drug Administration was clamoring for a grand jury investigation. FDA charged Searle had not given it full facts about tests on mice of their product. Finally, FDA scientists gave in and now have most consumers. Skinner went to work for the law firm representing NutraSweet. According to Skinner, his wife works for the same law firm now. Later Skinner was named Secretary of Transportation and then chief of staff to the President at the White House. While he was Secretary of Transportation, he never objected when Pan American Airways was up for sale and United Airlines was allowed to buy it at half the price Pan Am could have gone for had Delta and American Airlines been allowed to purchase Pan Am.

About this time also, the U.S. agreed to let British Airways pick up passengers at airports inside the U.S. and take them to other cities around the world, thus taking U.S. customers.

TOURISTS BEWARE OF MOSCOW CRIMINALS. U.S. visitors to Moscow should be warned of attackers on the way to the airport. Criminals on the streets of Moscow make air travelers a prime target. Criminals are killing them for their money and valuables. The scheme works well as travelers are usually not in immediate contact with associates for hours. Persons waiting at the other end of the line to meet them may assume the travelers have taken a later plane. Thus the criminals have plenty of time to make a getaway.

This frightening situation was revealed at the American News Woman's club. by a speaker, Margaret Adams, Washington editor of Good Housekeeping magazine. She had been in Russia, was leaving her party in Moscow and going to the airport alone when she was told at her hotel that they would send two men to accompany her. That will not be necessary, she said, as "I have no luggage with me." The hotel insisted. "They produced two burly men to accompany me and I did not understand why until they finally told me. They said criminals were murdering passengers enroute to the airlines. But they had not wanted to talk about it as they did not wish the secret to get out to other countries to discourage tourists coming to Moscow to spend money."

JEWELS FOR BARBARA. The Congressional Wives in Washington, composed of all the wives of members, who meet regularly for uplifting programs and fun, honor the First Lady of the Land at an elaborate luncheon annually. These women are a potent force. It is customary to give the First Lady a gift. This year it was a silver and aquamarine bracelet and matching earrings for Barbara Bush. The present came from the Altamar shop, owned by a congressional wife now deserted by her husband, former Rep. Marvin Leath of Waco, Texas. She sells exclusively in the U.S. the jewelry, designed by a Brazilian artist, Berle Marx, who designed this gift especially for Barbara. All his stones come from Brazil. He designs jewelry for women's faces and necklines and his necklaces lie flat on the lady's bosom. Doro LeBlond, Mrs. Bush's daughter, told Alta Leath that "Mother enjoys wearing those earrings."

The Bush family report on gifts to the first family, as required by law, included a \$900 item--the earrings and bracelet, donated by Alta Leath on behalf of the wives.

The sad follow-up is that Mrs. Leath and son, Tommy, are no longer being supported by her 61-year-old husband of 38 years, now a highly paid lobbyist for defense contractors, friends say. She is actually hard pressed to pay bills. While he entertains the 23-year-old Texas girl whom he put on his payroll while voting in the House of Representatives. Leath now makes \$700,000 a year and has on deposit with the House \$400,000 donated to him in past campaigns which he is entitled to take with him.

WHEAT NO LONGER SURPLUS in U.S. granaries, according to the Department of Agriculture. This country which has either given away or sold its surpluses of food in the past will no longer have reserve stocks. Under the new policy, the nation will live from year to year. So far, the consumer demand is less than the production but that could change under severe drought conditions. When this was cited to officials, they did not say they would change the new policy. The Department says that it had left over from last year for the marketing year ending in May, 1992, 10.6 million tons of wheat. Consumption is at the rate of about three million tons a month. The U.S. was exporting 34.7 tons for 1991 and 1992. Based on demand, the total domestic input for this year is 33 million tons. Consumption for 1991 and 1992 is estimated at about 53.9 million tons each year. The estimators in the Department will produce a larger crop than is needed. But still there will be only one year's supply in advance.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUED IN HARASSMENT CASE--Mary O'Connor of Northampton, Mass. was told by the Veterans Administration in Washington that it could not fire the 58-year old doctor who she alleges sexually assaulted her by comment and touching for a year before grabbing her head and shoving her face between his legs. The VA said it could only relocate him which they did. so she would not have to see him daily. When she

reported him to superiors, he threatened her. The 55-year-old former civilian employe of the VA is now out of a job and is suing the Veterans Administration and the Secretary of the Department and other officials for costs of doctors and psychiatrists whose services she sought out after being in a state of stress and shock, She declined to take early offers by the VA for compensation saying that was not enough. She is not suing for personal damages although she has been damaged by the experience to the extent that she will suffer the rest of her life. Sexual harassment did not occur according to the doctor she is suing, Dr. Robert K. Freebern, who alleges that she harassed him and that she was a woman scorned, trying to get revenge. She filed her formal complaint on April 18, 1991. The complaint drew a corroborating report from a Veterans' Department investigator, according to the Union-News of Northampton which claims its staff person saw the report. The doctor in this case named in the suit, Dr. Freebern, claims that he never saw that report. O'Connor's complaint then went through the VA's Internal Investigator, Dr. John O. Lipkin, chief of staff at a VA center in Maryland. The suit claims that while conducting a hearing, Lipkin said that if an orgasm did not occur during the alleged sexual harassment, then nothing had happened technically and O'Connor had nothing to complain about.

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